

PLAIN TALKS

March, 1979



Regulation man

Our friend or foe?

Ralph Nader's visit to Hillsdale College exposed the students to a close-up view of a new species: **Regulation Man**. They later singled out one characteristic of the breed: the apparent belief that anyone who opposes Regulation Man's **methods** must also be opposed to his stated **intentions**.

This was a shrewd observation. I believe it is possible to be in favor of protecting "life, health and property," as Mr. Nader puts it, without being in favor of the detailed minutiae of bureaucratic regulation which claim to pursue the same goals. (I also note in passing that it used to be traditional to add "liberty" to that list.)

In contrast to my view, Mr. Nader clearly believes that if you oppose the Environmental Protection Agency, for example, you are in favor of dirty water and polluted air.

WHEN QUESTIONED about the efficacy of air pollution controls, Mr. Nader asks, "Have you ever seen anyone dying of emphysema?" Arguments like these are powerful because they point out visible victims — especially to the media. How easy it is to be carried away by an emotional reaction instead of making a reasoned assessment of alternatives.

But reflection will show that there are victims of regulation as well as victims of non-regulation. Because the social costs of regulation lack the emotional impact of regulation's *invisible victims*, those who suffer the adverse consequences of regulation are the invisible victims of our society.

The one person in 200 million who is dying because of a new drug is paraded before us. Thanks to television, we can even attend his funeral and watch his widow testify before a Senate sub-committee. But none of us can see the hundreds of thousands of people whose early deaths might have been **prevented** because of the new drug. These people do not testify.

If Regulation Man is to be praised for improving conditions for some workers, he must also be blamed for the loss of jobs and opportunities resulting from his actions. Unemployment, however, is by no means the most serious debit against regulatory activities.

CONSIDER THE ISSUE of nuclear power. Regulation Man and his allies trot out stories of death and suffering from radiation. The fear and horror of Hiroshima are paraded before us and we are told that the nuclear monster must be kept caged — that the risks of releasing him are too great. Yet when we realize that a delay in utilizing nuclear power lengthens our dependence upon coal, we can make a quick and effective comparison to spot regulation's invisible victims.

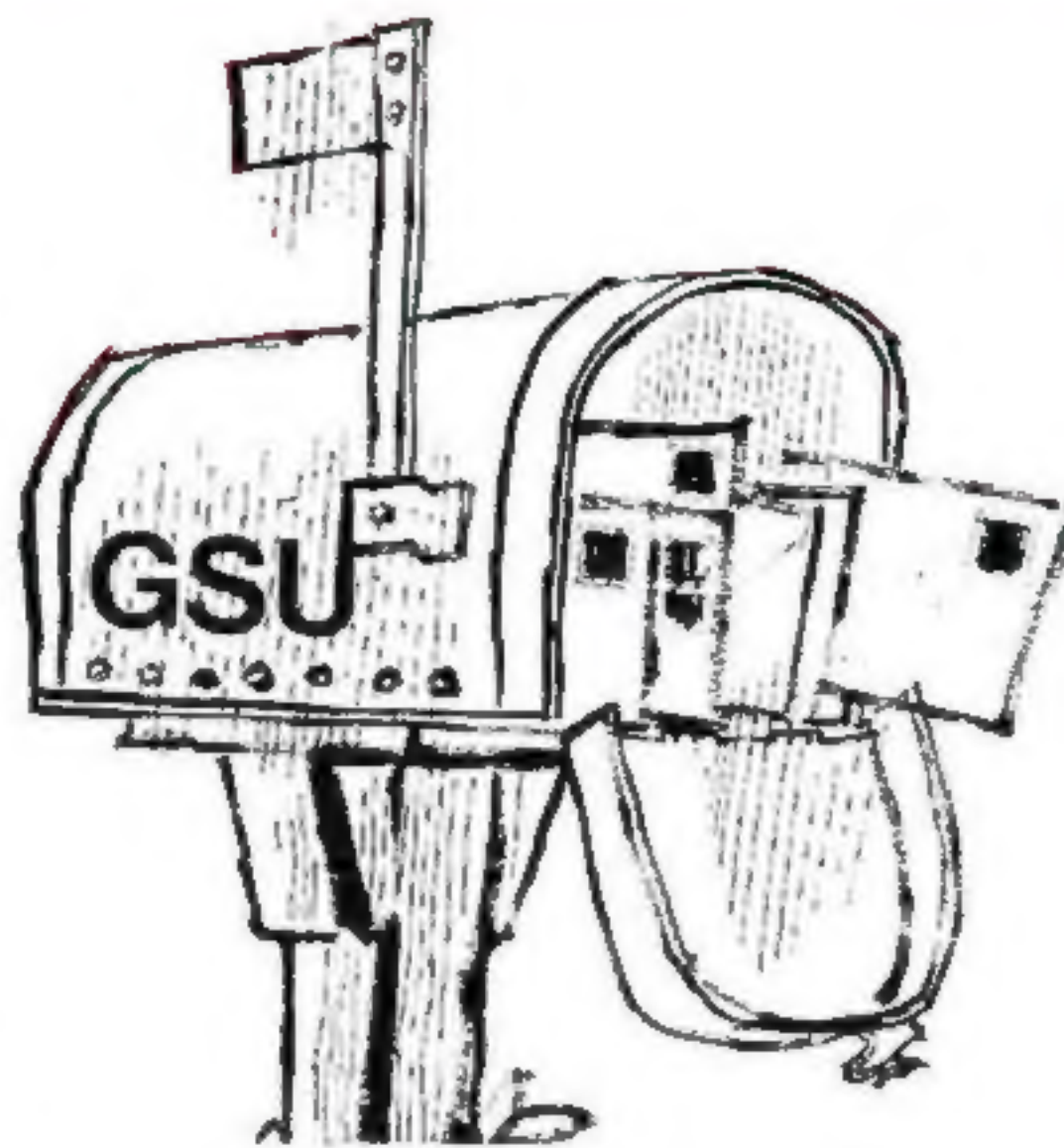
Regulation Man and his cohorts prefer the horror stories to the calculations. Perhaps nuclear companies should play it his way, and accuse him of wilfully conniving in the deaths of those miners and bronchial asthmatics. Perhaps we should carry the hundreds of thousands of them into Senate hearings on their stretchers and let the television cameras linger on the grief-stricken faces of their relatives. Compared to that of coal, the social cost of nuclear power is cheap, clean and humane.

THE OPPORTUNITY for ordinary people to expand their pursuit of happiness and to extend their horizons is also a factor which ought to be looked at in these calculations. In this area Regulation Man has once again looked only at the obvious and visible impact, taking no account of more subtle and far-reaching implications.

In summation, the attention given to visible victims in many of Regulation Man's works and words leaves the plight of the invisible victims unknown and unlamented. And when we add to all those consequences the loss of our power as citizens to influence the rules which confine our behavior and restrict our choices, we can finally see the shape and the name of two previously unseen casualties. The lesser of these is called "democracy," and the greater is called "liberty."

Dr. Madisen Pirie
Hillsdale College
Hillsdale, Michigan

ON THE COVER: Lake Charles line foreman Emery Fruge (left) seems intent on accomplishing the job at hand — grounding a 230 kilovolt transmission line. Helper Ivan Guillory is shown at right.



Mail Box

Mr. Robert Sheffield
Gulf States Utilities Company
210 W. Avenue H
Silsbee, Texas 77656

Dear Bob:

I just would like you to know that we appreciate the way that you and your people responded during the power outage on January 2, 1979. With the weather in the subtrees, you were able to respond and have power back to us (under the adverse conditions) in a minimum amount of time.

Once again our thanks.

Sincerely,

J. P. Wilson
Vice President & General
Manager - Manufacturing
South Hampton Company

George Irvin, Superintendent
Gulf States Utilities Company
Customer Service Department
P. O. Box 2431
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Dear Mr. Irvin:

This is just a note to thank Ms. Cindy Talley and Mr. Jerry Matthews for the courteous treatment extended to me on my recent visit to your customer service department.

My case was handled fairly and to my satisfaction, and I am sure that if more of your customers would approach your customer service personnel with legitimate problems, their results would be more productive.

Thanks again for your cooperation.

Best Regards,

Fred Ford, Director of
State Surplus Property
Division of Administration
Property Control Section

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Plain Talks

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Member

HOUSTON

TCIP: At GSU it's called customer service



Tim Shaunty, Texas Agricultural Extension service community improvement specialist, (second from right) discusses 1979 TCIP with GSU district superintendents and consumer service representatives.

Good customer service means different things to different people.

To our customers at GSU, good service may mean the prompt restoration of electrical power following a raging thunderstorm. Or it may mean an honest, understandable, no nonsense answer to a question.

Still others may see good customer service as that friendly smile behind the counter when they walk in to pay their bill.

But for hundreds of townspeople throughout Texas, customer service has taken on a new meaning through the involvement of GSU and other electric utilities in the Texas Community Improvement Program (TCIP). To them, good customer service has come to mean caring enough to get involved in making their communities better places to live and work.

THAT'S THE PURPOSE of TCIP. Jointly sponsored by the investor-owned electric utilities in Texas and the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, TCIP is a program in which small, rural communities with less than 1,000 population are helped in their efforts to achieve a better quality of life through improved community services and facilities, improved social and recreational activities, more income and better jobs.

Awards and recognition for community

achievements are provided as an incentive through contest competition to encourage communities to organize, plan and implement meaningful community projects and activities. The competition is an elimination contest beginning at the county level, with county winners competing at the district level and district winners competing at the regional levels.

As co-sponsors with Texas Agricultural Extension Service, GSU personnel in the Beaumont, Port Arthur and Western Divisions recruit and work with communities in the areas they serve. GSU and other utilities in the state also cooperate with the local county extension agents in coordinating the county TCIP contest, recreation and awards programs in the county, the TCIP committee of the county program building organization and TCIP leader training.

THE 1979 PROGRAM was kicked off last month for the GSU-sponsored communities when local Gulf States superintendents and consumer service representatives met in Beaumont with Tim Shaunty, community improvement specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. After the meeting, they returned home to the arduous task of organizing TCIP programs in their areas.

John Bordelon, GSU coordinator of area develop-

ment and overseer of the company's involvement in TCIP, speaks highly of the program.

"This type of program organizes local community leaders into an effective organization," he said, "while providing us with an effective community program. With this type of unique relationship, we feel we can communicate those things that need public acceptance and understanding."

The TCIP program was started in 1947 and at that time was operated solely by the extension service. In the late '50's, however, electric utilities joined in as co-sponsors of the program. Now eight investor-owned electric utilities throughout Texas act as co-sponsors of the program.

LAST YEAR, Gause, one of the GSU-sponsored communities, was named one of the four regional winners in the statewide competition. But not without a lot of work. For a whole year, many of the town's 600 residents worked to make their town a better place to live by making improvements that ranged from erecting a new sign on a historical marker to repairing and repainting the town water tower.

And so the work begins for this year's TCIP communities and their utility company advisors as they strive toward the goal of "brightening the corner where they are."

Improved regulatory climate cited

River Bend gets green light . . .

Plans to resume construction on the River Bend nuclear power plant, the company's first nuclear-powered generating facility, were approved last month at a meeting of the GSU board of directors.

Construction at the River Bend site, located near St. Francisville, La., was suspended two years ago because of financial uncertainties. A major factor behind the decision to resume construction on the facility was the recent \$22.9 million rate increase granted GSU by the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC). Although the increase was only about half the amount requested by the company, the move has been interpreted as a positive indication of an improving regulatory climate in that state, one which will facilitate the construction of needed new electric generating units.

NEGOTIATIONS ARE continuing with other utilities to acquire 40 percent of the plant.

An indication of the improving financial condition of the company was the announcement by board chairman Don Crawford that the board of directors had increased the quarterly dividend on common stock by 3¢ a share, from 31¢ to 34¢. The increase in the common dividend is the first since November, 1977. No dividend increases had been declared by GSU between 1973 and November, 1977.

In making the announcement, Crawford emphasized that "Gulf States is committed to building sufficient generating capacity to insure that our customers have adequate electric power in the future. Jobs for future generations and the overall health of the economy depend upon it."

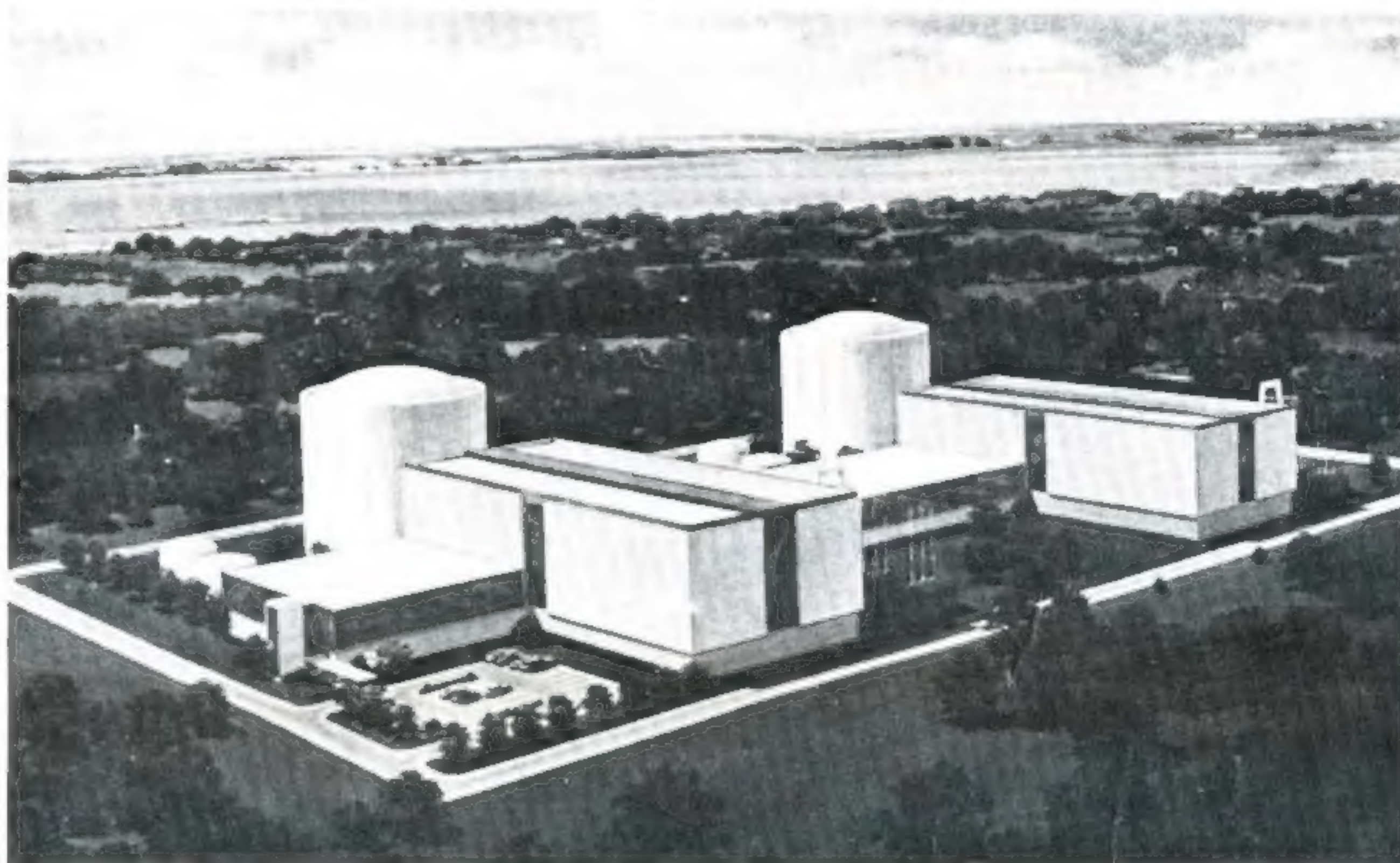
Work will resume promptly on the first of the two

units planned at the site. However, no construction schedule has been established for the second plant.

CRAWFORD PREDICTED that construction of River Bend No. 1, slated for completion in 1984, will create some 3,000 jobs for at least three of the five years the project is expected to be under construc-

tion. When complete, the unit will have a generating capacity of 940 megawatts, about twice the capacity of the company's largest units now in operation.

The River Bend project was announced in 1971 and a construction permit was issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on March 25, 1977.



Artist's conception of the River Bend Nuclear Plant.

'Nuclear communicator' joins executive staff

There is a tremendous amount of technological knowledge required when an electric utility like GSU prepares to enter the age of nuclear generation.

But, in this time of public skepticism about nuclear power, perhaps just as important is the need to effectively communicate the complexities of harnessing the energy of the atom.

Dr. E. Linn Draper, Jr., a nationally recognized expert on nuclear energy and a much-demanded

speaker on the subject, brings both qualities to GSU as technical assistant to the chairman of the board.

Draper joined GSU Feb. 1 after eight years as director of the nuclear engineering program at the University of Texas at Austin, where he was an associate professor in the College of Engineering.

IN ANNOUNCING THE appointment, board chairman Don Crawford said, "Understanding the many complexities of nuclear energy is one thing. Articulating those issues in a way that can be understood by the general public is something else. Dr. Draper's ability to do both will be invaluable as GSU and its customers enter the nuclear age."

Draper succeeds Gary Weigand, now general manager of nuclear projects, as technical assistant to the chairman of the board.

He has served as a consultant on nuclear energy for more than 30 electric utility companies, has testified before numerous congressional and state committees and has been much in demand as a speaker and discussion leader on nuclear issues.

Draper expresses concern about how the public views nuclear power today, citing radioactive waste—a field in which he is a specialist—as an example.

"I THINK THE public's concern in this area is largely a misunderstanding," said Draper. "They misperceive that the federal government's slowness in taking a forceful position on radioactive waste

means that there is no technical solution. Good technical solutions do exist, but until the federal regulatory agencies—particularly the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) take a firm and decisive stand and implement a policy that is convincing to the general public, I think this malaise will exist and the public will have these concerns."

There are two other "disquieting signs" that Draper sees in the nuclear area. One is the political and regulatory uncertainty that surrounds the licensing and construction of nuclear—as well as coal—plants. The other is the lack of adequate rate relief for many electric utilities.

"Without adequate rate relief, even those utilities that are inclined to build coal and nuclear plants are likely to be thwarted in their effort by inadequate financing," said Draper.

A FIRM BELIEVER in the safety of nuclear power plants, Draper said "they are among the safest devices ever devised by man." It is not accidental, he said, that during the last 22 years, the number of reactors has increased from one to 72 and there has "never been an accident in one of those plants that released radiation in quantities that hurt people."

He received his B.A. in 1964 and his B.S. in chemical engineering in 1965 from Rice University and his Ph.D. in nuclear engineering from Cornell University in 1970.



Dr. E. Linn Draper

Construction to be speeded by nuclear labor pact

GSU's River Bend Nuclear Power Plant will be the first in the nation built under terms of the Nuclear Power Construction Stabilization Agreement, a pact which will significantly speed up construction and reduce the total cost of the facility.

The announcement was made by GSU chairman Don Crawford following the signing of the agreement by representatives of Stone & Webster Engineering Corporation, the contracting firm, and the 16 major participating unions.

"The major reduction of construction delays will result in substantial long-term savings for electric customers," said Crawford.

COMMENTING ON the pact, Energy Secretary James Schlesinger said "I hope this historic agreement between representatives of the contracting firm and the 16 participating unions will provide a pattern for nuclear construction throughout the land. It is necessary for this country to make use of nuclear power. Yet, if nuclear is to be a viable choice for utilities, plants must be brought on line with less delay. I heartily commend those involved for taking this action in the national interest."

J. D. Albin, business manager of the Baton Rouge Building Trades Council, described the agreement as being "not only in the best interests of members of labor but also essential for the speedy completion of the River Bend nuclear plant, assuring an adequate supply of electricity for the continued

economic health of the area." The Baton Rouge Building Trades Council represents 17 Baton Rouge area unions.

The Nuclear Power Stabilization Agreement went into effect last April after two years of intensive efforts by leaders of the electric utility industry — including Crawford — and representatives of major labor unions, government and related industries. Negotiations were conducted under the direction of former Labor Secretary John Dunlop.

ACCORDING TO Crawford, the River Bend project can be a showcase featuring labor-management cooperation to complete a source of economical energy that will be necessary for continued economic growth.

If the agreement works as expected, it should lead to faster and more efficient construction of nuclear power plants in the United States, at a time when the impending energy shortage makes rapid construction essential.

"The parties involved in the agreement are keenly aware of the critical national importance of nuclear power to assure adequate supplies of energy, the creation of job opportunities and a greater degree of energy independence in the national interest," said Crawford.

Robert A. Georgine, national president of the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Depart-

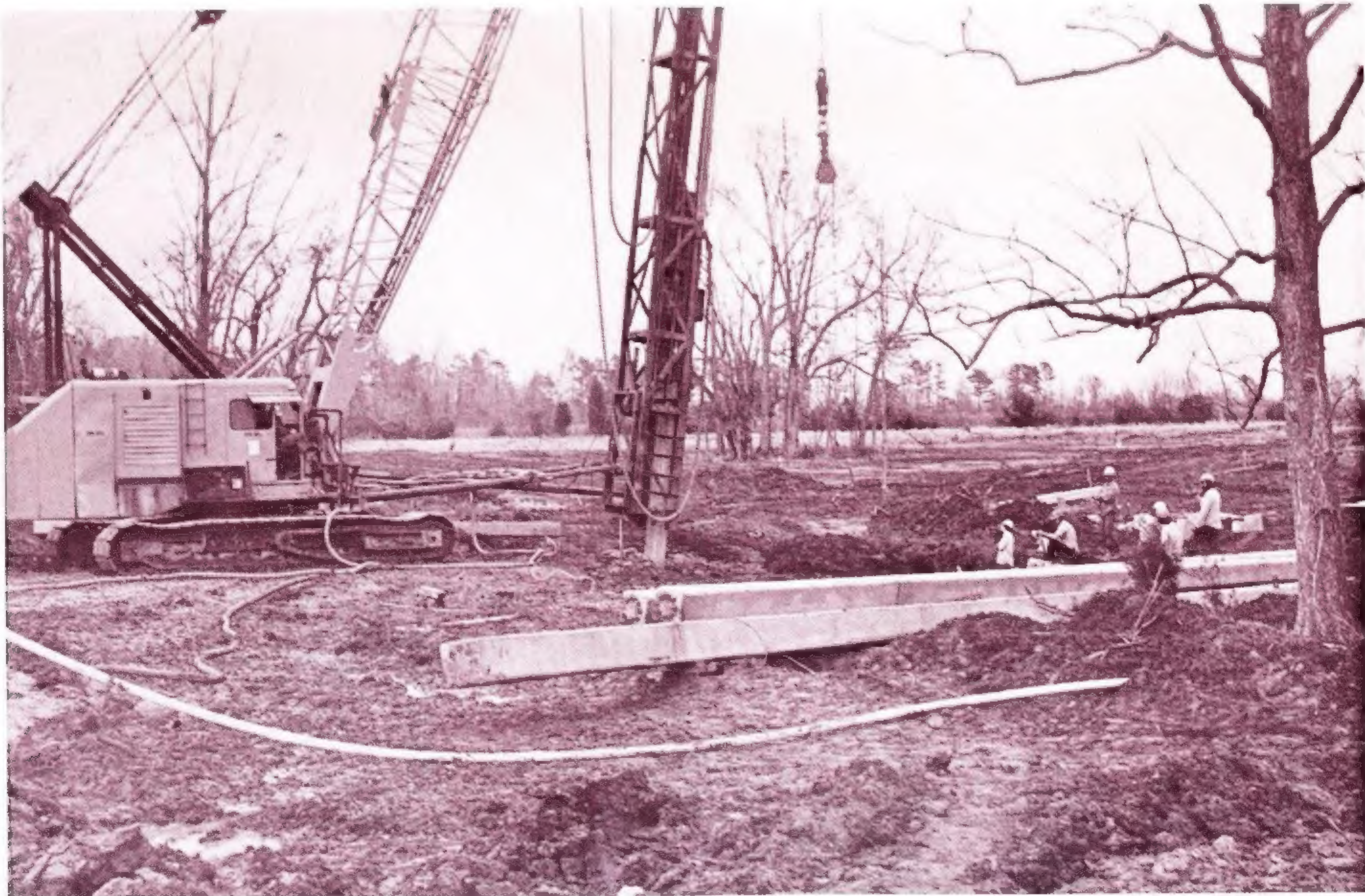
ment, described the agreement as providing for "innovative procedures" such as the use of prefabricated materials to speed construction, effective work crew signing, increased use of apprentices, settlement of disputes, standardized working conditions and a prohibition against strikes, slowdowns and walkouts.

CONSTRUCTION AT RIVER Bend will follow a "rolling four ten," schedule. This means that instead of working five-eight hour days weekly, employees will work four-ten hour days and then take four days off. A second group works its four-ten hour days when the first group is off. The result is that construction is carried out seven days a week rather than the usual five days.

Stone & Webster, one of the nation's four major nuclear power plant contractors, signed the agreement. For the unions, the signers included the AFL-CIO's Building & Construction Trades Department and 16 affiliated international unions representing insulators, boilermakers, bricklayers, carpenters, electrical workers, operating engineers, iron workers, laborers, lathers, painters, plasterers, pipefitters and teamsters.

Frank W. Ries, senior vice president of Stone & Webster called the agreement "a milestone labor-industry pact" that should trim a year off the construction timetable.

(Photo by Bill Benedetto)



Under terms of the Nuclear Power Construction Stabilization Agreement work at the River Bend site will be done seven days a week, shortening construction time and costs considerably.

More changes announced in top management organization

Several promotions and reassignments involving key GSU personnel, including a move which made the managers of all five of the company's operating divisions vice presidents, were announced last month.

Edward M. Loggins, formerly vice president-administrative services, was elected senior vice president-administrative services and J. F. Worthy, formerly vice president of the company's Baton Rouge division, has been transferred to Beaumont as vice president-general services.

S. L. Stelly, formerly manager of the Port Arthur division, has been promoted to vice president of Louisiana operations, with headquarters in Baton Rouge. Ted Meinscher, formerly manager of industrial relations, has been promoted to vice president of the Port Arthur division and John Conley, formerly Western division manager, has been promoted to vice president of that division.

In Louisiana, former division managers Calvin Hebert and W. E. Richard were elected vice presidents of the Baton Rouge and Lake Charles divisions, respectively.

In other moves, William A. Cropper, formerly assistant treasurer, was promoted to treasurer and Patricia Broussard, formerly assistant secretary, was promoted to secretary. Francis J. Andrews, Jr., formerly assistant controller at Northeast Utilities of Hartford, Conn., was named controller



Loggins

Edward Loggins joined the company in 1958 as a T&D engineer in Beaumont and later, Navasota. A native of Winona, Miss., he moved through a number of engineering and sales positions until 1971 when he was made superintendent at Sabine Station. He became production manager in System Production in 1974, Western Division manager in 1975 and vice president-technical services in 1977. The following year, Loggins, an Air Force veteran, was named vice president-personnel.

A graduate of the University of Texas with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, Loggins is married to the former Patricia Smith of Hattiesburg, Miss. They have four children, Cindy, Russell, Martha and Sharon.

Jack Worthy

Worthy, a native of St. Joseph, Louisiana, began his GSU career in 1956 in the advertising department as a writer and photographer after graduating from Louisiana State University with a bachelor's degree in journalism. Later the same year, he



Worthy

transferred to Baton Rouge and was promoted to assistant advertising director. In 1966, he became director-community relations and was promoted to assistant to the vice president-Baton Rouge division in 1968. Three years later, Worthy was named division vice president and after a brief stint as vice president-public affairs in 1978, returned to that position.

An Army veteran, Worthy is married to the former Norma Kimmel and they have three children: Lisa, Ricky and Trace.



Stelly

S. L. Stelly

Employed by the company in the Lafayette T&D Department in 1948, Stelly was transferred to Lake Charles and promoted to safety-claim agent in 1953. He was named system safety director in 1964 and transferred to Beaumont. Stelly became Port Arthur division manager in 1976 after serving as director-safety & claims since 1973.

A graduate of the University of Southwestern Louisiana with a bachelor's degree in business administration, Stelly is a native of Crowley, La. He and his wife, the former Pansy Block of Lafayette, have four sons.

Ted Meinscher

A native of Beaumont, Meinscher joined the company in 1950 as an accounting clerk and served in that post until entering the Army in 1953. He returned as a senior accounting clerk in 1955. Meinscher moved through several accounting positions until 1966 when he was named director of plant accounting. In 1976, he was promoted to manager-industrial relations, having previously served as director of industrial relations, director of accounting operations and industrial relations coordinator.

Meinscher, who attended Lamar University, is married to the former Marlene Crabbe of Beaumont and the couple has one son, Russell.



Meinscher

John Conley

Conley has been with Gulf States since 1958, when he joined the company as an engineer in Beaumont. He held assignments in Beaumont, Lake Charles and Baton Rouge before becoming operating superintendent in Port Arthur in 1974. Three years later, Conley was named to the same position in Beaumont and in 1978, he became



Conley

Western division manager.

A Navy veteran, Conley received his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Louisiana State University in 1958. The Beaumont native is married to the former Mary Janney of Baton Rouge and the couple has four children: Cathy, Judy, Jay and Pat.

Calvin Hebert

Hebert, a native of Abbeville, La., joined the company in 1962 and spent five years as an engineer in the Port Arthur T&D Department before being transferred to the Engineering Planning Department in Beaumont. He became manager-electric operations in Baton Rouge in 1978 and had served as marketing superintendent and operations supervisor since his transfer to Baton Rouge in 1974.

Hebert holds an electrical engineering degree from the University of Southwestern Louisiana and is a Marine Corps veteran. He has done graduate work at Lamar University. Hebert and his wife, Shirley, have two daughters, Phyllis and Michelle.



Hebert

Bill Richard



Richard

A Lake Charles native, Richard attended public schools in Beaumont and received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Texas A&M University in 1950. He was employed by the company in 1950 but from 1951 to 1953, he was on active duty with the U. S. Army in Germany.

Upon his return, Richard was reinstated with GSU and served in several engineering capacities in Lake Charles and Navasota. Returning to Beaumont in 1962, he was named supervisor of commercial sales and in 1964 he became superintendent of industrial and commercial sales. Richard was named Lake Charles division manager in 1975, after serving as Western division manager since 1969.

He is married to the former Johanna Lorenzen of Dormstadt, Germany. The couple has three sons: Mike, Glenn and Jonathan.

Bill Cropper

Cropper joined GSU in 1969 as an assistant purchasing agent and became a market research analyst in December of the same year. A Beaumont native, he was named a financial analyst in 1973, supervisor-long term finance in 1977 and assistant treasurer of the company in 1978. He received his bachelor's degree in business administration from Texas A&M University in 1961 and his master's degree from Lamar in 1972.

Cropper is married to the former Genon Oliver and the couple has two children: William, Jr. and Jenna.



Cropper

Patricia Broussard



Broussard

A 1971 graduate of Lamar University with a bachelor's degree in economics, Broussard joined the company in 1975 as an economist in the financial services department. The Beaumont native was named assistant secretary in May, 1978. She is married to Joe Clyde Broussard.

GSU ads win awards



Cranch (left) and Benedetto admire awards.

Bill Benedetto, GSU consumer communications coordinator in Baton Rouge, and M. F. "Sonny" Cranch of The Advertising Company were the joint recipients of two first place awards in recent advertising competition sponsored by the Advertising Club of Baton Rouge.

The awards came in the categories "Television—60 seconds, Production Cost \$500 to \$1,000" and "Television—30 seconds, Production Cost \$500 to \$1,000".

The 60 second spots, which focused on the need to develop nuclear generation, had earlier been challenged by the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC) after two groups filed protests with the commission on grounds that the company's advertisements on the nuclear issue were "false and misleading". The ruling, however, was in GSU's favor.

"These are the ads that really tested the right of a utility company to advertise," said Benedetto.

The 30 second spots illustrated GSU's need to increase its generating capacity and centered on a "lights out" theme.

Change in handling of energy affairs urged

Change is needed in Washington's handling of energy matters if electricity supply is to be reliable and adequate in the years ahead, officials of Edison Electric Institute (EEI), the principal association of the nation's electric companies, told the New York Society of Security Analysts in New York City last month.

"We need improved government policies, a better regulatory climate, and corrective legislation," said W. Reid Thompson, EEI Chairman and Chairman and President of Potomac Electric Power Company.

Thompson told the analysts that "nuclear power plants scheduled to come on line in the next three years have the potential to generate enough energy to replace all the Iranian oil currently cut off from the United States."

But, he continued, "changing and conflicting regulatory requirements, actions of intervenors, and the inherent slowness of the regulatory process in

licensing nuclear power plants make it virtually certain that the 30 nuclear units planned for addition in 1979, 1980 and 1981 will not be available on schedule."

EEI President William McCollam, Jr. said the future of nuclear power as an essential option in providing for the security of the nation's energy future depends on a firm commitment by the Carter Administration and Congress. Solutions are needed urgently to the problems of delay and uncertainty in nuclear licensing, he declared.

"If government does not begin to act positively on energy supply and if demand grows at levels even somewhat below those currently predicted there might be electricity shortages in some areas beginning in the 1980s," said Thompson.

The 1978 record shows electricity output up about 4 percent over 1977. EEI is forecasting a rate of growth of about 4 percent in 1979.

More letters —

(from page two)

Mr. James P. Towers
Director, Governmental Affairs-La.
Gulf States Utilities Company
446 North Boulevard
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

Dear Jim:

I would like to take this means to tell you again how much I appreciated your responding to my distress call several weeks ago when we had the heavy rainstorm that cut off electricity to my house. I hated to disturb you at home on Sunday afternoon.

The service call was made by your Mr. Dale M. Mayeaux. The weather conditions could not have been worse, as it was raining quite heavily. The problem was manifested by the fact that he had to service the disconnected line on the second floor of our house. Dale tackled the problem with the determination to repair the down line immediately rather than return the following day when the weather conditions may have been better. He was very cheerful, and I want you and his supervisor to know that he is a real asset to your company.

Very truly yours,

E. M. "Ned" Clark
Executive Vice President
Fidelity National Bank

Mr. Gene Koci
Gulf States Utilities Company
P. O. Box 2951
Beaumont, Texas 77704

Dear Gene:

I really feel honored that our house at 8420 Allison Way was chosen to be shown as an example of the houses built under the N.E.W. program. We feel that our company is learning to build a better house through your efforts and the efforts of Gulf States Utilities Company.

I think that we have our polycel problem just about under control. If you see any other areas where we are deficient, I would certainly appreciate your pointing these out to us.

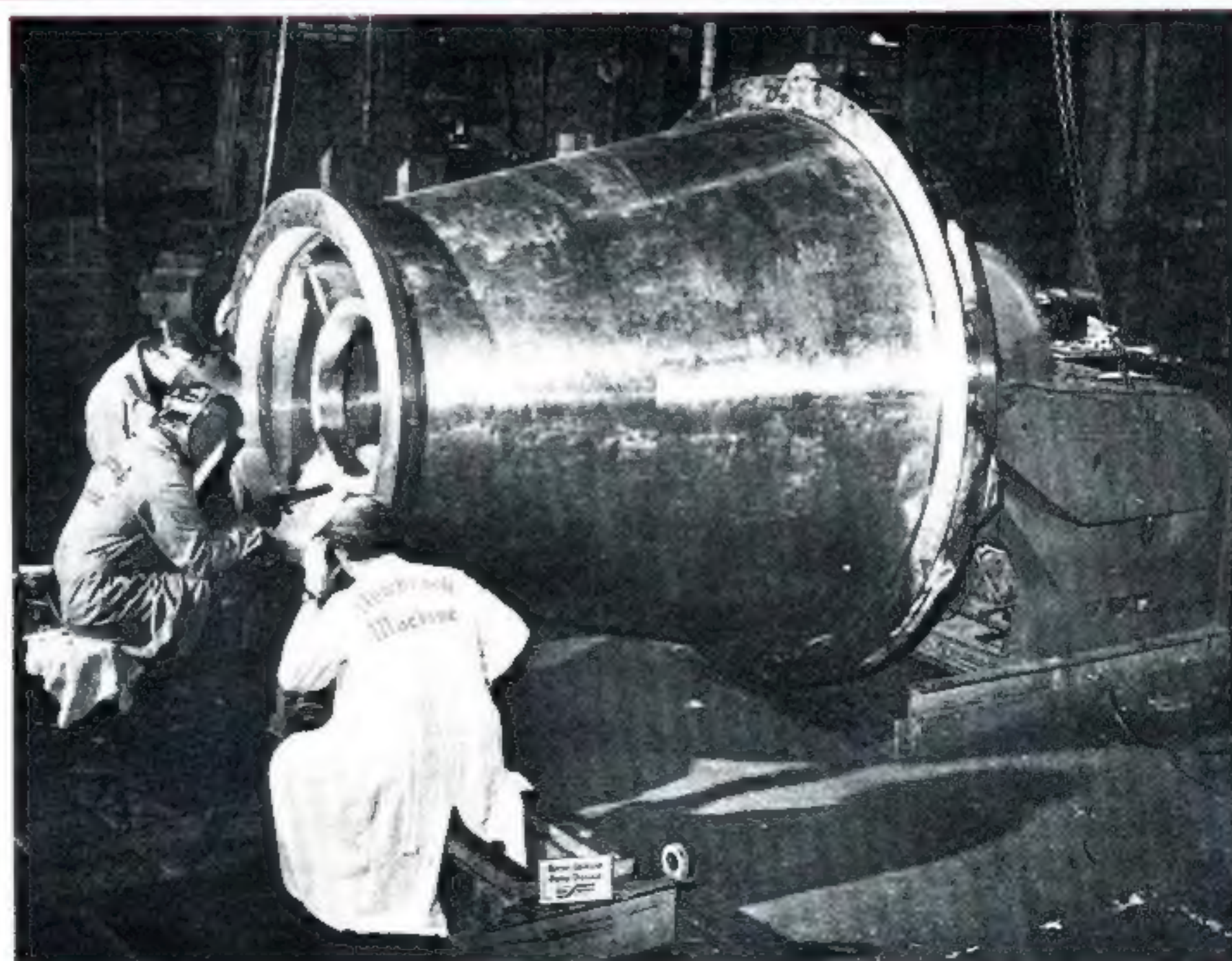
Sincerely,

Haywood Walker III

Although this stainless steel object looks like a NASA space capsule, it's actually a section of the prototype sodium pump for the nation's first demonstration breeder reactor — The Clinch River Breeder Reactor Plant in Oak Ridge Tennessee. The workers at Newbrook Machine Company in Silver Creek, New York, are welding a flange on the pump's seven-foot lower inner structure. When fully assembled, the pump will stand nearly 2½ stories high. After assembly in California, the prototype will be extensively tested in water and sodium.

The pump will circulate sodium at the rate of 33,000 gallons per minute so heat from the reactor can be used to produce steam and electricity. Six pumps like the prototype are needed for the plant — three to circulate the heated primary sodium from the reactor through the immediate heat exchangers and three to transfer heat from the exchangers to the steam generators. The total cost for the seven pumps, including design, engineering, fabrication and testing, will be about \$60 million.

The Clinch River Breeder Reactor project is a joint effort of the federal government and many of the nation's electric utilities, including GSU, which have pledged a total of \$257 million to the project. A breeder like the Clinch River plant produces more fuel than it uses as it generates electricity. The plant is a logical step up from the smaller experimental breeders that date back to 1951 and the commercial-size breeders that utilities envision for the 21st century. About \$650 million has already been spent on the project, which employs more than 5,000 workers in 23 states and the District of Columbia.



The nation's first 500 Kil

A reality – thanks to the team effort of hundreds of Gulf Staters.

GSU Engineering Design and Substation Department personnel are pioneering a relatively new concept in substation design utilizing sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆) rather than air as the insulating agent. The result is a substation that takes up less space, is more pleasing to the environment and is often more economical than conventional open bus substations.

The first gas insulated substation in the Gulf States system was energized on September 25, 1978, by the Baton Rouge Substation Department and, at the time, the 230 kilovolt (Kv) ENCO substation, located in the Baton Rouge EXXON refinery, was only the second of its kind in the South, according to Floyd Doughty, general substation foreman in Baton Rouge.

But the real pride of the GSU system is the Webre substation, located near Rosedale, La. Energized only last month, it is the first 500 Kv gas insulated substation in the country.

"THIS PROJECT WAS a great challenge for us to complete on schedule and, at the same time, do an acceptable job of keeping up with our other maintenance and construction work," maintained Doughty. "It was a new experience for us because it was the first gas insulated substation built with GSU crews."

Several major problems, including difficulties in getting the site work done and delays in equipment and material delivery, caused a setback of several months on the project but much of this lost time, said Doughty, was made up through innovative planning and an "assembly line" type operation devised by field personnel.

"It was necessary for our people to work hard, long hours at times," he added, "and the cooperation here was outstanding."

The Webre project was, indeed, a team project. Almost every department in the T&D group, as well as many employees from system engineering and operations made significant contributions to the project. And, nearly all the Baton Rouge Substation Department employees either worked on the project or contributed to it through support services.

"THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED within the time frame allowed could only have been done through real teamwork, which was evidenced by the spirit of cooperation and the extra effort by practically everyone associated with the project," maintained Doughty.

"This teamwork effort appears to have resulted primarily from two factors: the improvement in communications and overall cooperation between classified personnel and management people, initiated by Mr. Crawford and the challenge of a new and timely, but difficult, project. If this type of atmosphere can be maintained, our company will be a better place for all of us to work."

Although ENCO and Webre are firsts for GSU, several others are on the drawing board, including a 500 Kv switchyard at River Bend. Another 230 Kv gas insulated substation, Jaguar, is in the beginning stages in Baton Rouge.

GSU has definitely decided to go the gas bus route, said Lewis Guthrie, engineering manager. "It's kinda like religion. You either have it or you don't", he said.

PERHAPS THE MOST noticeable difference between a gas insulated substation and one with an open bus is size. Webre is 40 percent of the size of a comparable open bus substation, estimated Bob Collier, senior engineer on the ENCO and Webre projects.

A primary consideration in making the gas bus vs. open bus decision is, of course, cost. "Typically, the way the cost figures run, and with everything being equal," said Guthrie, "it's more economical to go gas bus at 500 Kv. At 345 Kv, it's break even and at 230 Kv, it's generally more expensive to go gas bus."

But, as Guthrie points out, there are factors which influence the economic feasibility of gas bus. In building the 230 Kv ENCO substation in the already crowded EXXON industrial complex, two oil storage tanks had to be relocated to make room for the switchyard at a cost of \$300,000 to EXXON.

"If we had built a conventional, open bus substation, we would've had to move six tanks," said

Guthrie. "There you've got a million dollars to play with to start."

SPACE AND AESTHETICS, however, are the primary considerations in going gas bus on Jaguar, a 230 Kv substation to be located under an overpass, at the entrance to Baton Rouge's Southern University.

"We looked for other sites in that area but there is just no other place to build a substation. This dictated going gas bus to be able to get on site without a complete clutter of lines and structures," said Guthrie.

The higher cost of gas bus equipment is greatly offset by reduced labor costs. Many parts are already assembled when they reach the site. "You still have a lot of assembling and welding to do, but it goes faster than in open bus," added Guthrie. "We perceive the price of gas bus coming down as manufacturers get into it and it's more readily accepted and utilized."

"At this point, it is probable that all future 500 Kv substations on GSU's system will be gas bus," said Tom Reeves, design engineer for the Jaguar and River Bend substations.

ALTHOUGH GAS insulated substations are a fairly recent development, the insulating medium, SF₆, has been used in circuit breakers since the early '50s. "We put our first gas breakers in at GSU in 1970," said Guthrie.

SF₆, in itself, is not toxic. In fact, a mixture of 50 percent oxygen and 50 percent SF₆ will support life. There is, however, some hazard in handling SF₆ that has been exposed to an electrical arc. "It's a little bit toxic," pointed out Guthrie, "but we've learned to handle it."

Despite the solutions gas bus brings to the electric utility industry, it is unlikely that it will completely replace open bus. A substation design that is ideal in one situation may be undesirable in the next.

At least now we have a choice, one which could save the company, and in turn its customers, millions of dollars in years ahead.

—Gary Dias

ovolt gas bus substation



It was necessary for the gas bus at Webre to be kept immaculately clean and free of contamination during construction and much of this responsibility fell on the shoulders of the pair pictured above. Nicknamed "Mr. Clean" by co-workers, Roland Jarreau (left) and Bobby Sheets spent many hours wearing sterile surgical gloves as they went about the vital task of cleaning the gas bus equipment.



These welders, part of the Webre "team effort", made 394 aluminum welds with some 51 of them 63 inches long. From left to right: Mike Valentine, Bobby Sheets, Larry Ivy and "Butch" Turnley.

“It was necessary for our people to work hard, long hours . . . the cooperation here was outstanding”



Personnel were rotated on the Webre project in order to familiarize as many people as possible with the new equipment. Although not GSU's first gas insulated substation, it was the first of its kind in the nation and the first constructed with GSU crews. The crew pictured above consists of: (from left to right) front row — John Eaphrom, Lance Nowlin, Gene Fuselier, Bob Luneau,

"Butch" Turnley, Sam Parabid (factory service engineer) and Bill Withers. Second row: Charlie Martin, Mike Valentine, Larry Ivy, Bobby Sheets, Joe Oubre, Wayne Varnado, Roland Jarreau, Leonard White, Charlie Greer and Bob Kayser.

On The Move

ANDERSON, WARREN W., Mechanical Inspector, assigned to Sabine 5 Project, Sabine Station.

AUDILET, RAYMOND L., Director-Project Planning & Measurement, assigned to Project Services, Beaumont, as Director-Scheduling & Systems.

BAKEWELL, MICHAEL D., Engineer, assigned to Plant Services, Beaumont.

BEEKMAN, DAVID N., Engineer, Beaumont Rates, promoted to Director-Rate Research.

BIBBY, MICHAEL B., Director-Program Development, Beaumont System Consumer Services, promoted to Director-Load Research, Beaumont Rates.

BISHOP, J. BROOKS, Market Research Assistant, Beaumont System Consumer Services, promoted to Coordinator-Energy Information.

BLACK, NORMAN F., Mechanical Design Engineer, assigned to Plant Services, Beaumont, as Mechanical Engineer.

BOYKIN, JOHN D., Real Estate Representative, Beaumont Real Estate, promoted to Right-of-Way Agent.

BRANDON, DIANNE N., Consumer Service Representative, Baton Rouge Division Consumer Services, promoted to Consumer Affairs Coordinator.

BROWN, JOE D., Mechanical Maintenance Foreman, assigned to Sabine 5 Project, Sabine Station, as Piping & Welding Inspector.

BURTON, JOE L., Engineer, assigned to Special Programs, Baton Rouge.

BURTON, STEPHEN K., Administrative Accountant, Beaumont Accounting Services, promoted to Senior Administrative Accountant, General Accounting.

CALLAHAN, RICHARD D., Engineer, Beaumont Engineering Standards and Applications, promoted to Application Engineer.

CHAMPAGNE, AMERY J., Director-Nuclear & Mechanical Engineering, assigned to Design Engineering, Beaumont, as Director-Mechanical Engineering.

CHAPMAN, ROBERT G., Project Engineer, assigned to Nelson Coal Project, Beaumont.

CONDON, GERALD R., Engineering Assistant, Beaumont System Operations, promoted to Coordinator-Space Administration, Beaumont Administrative Services.

COWART, ROY E., Assistant General Line Foreman, Beaumont T&D, promoted to General Line Foreman.

COX, JOSEPH A., Superintendent-Construction Management, assigned to Nelson Coal Project, Nelson Station.

CROWE, WILLIAM T., Director-Electrical, Instrument & Controls Engineering, assigned to Design Engineering, Beaumont.

CRYER, EDWARD E., Supervisor-Survey & Right-of-Way, Lake Charles T&D, promoted to System Real Estate Supervisor, Beaumont Real Estate.

CURLESS, JON H., Chief Accountant-River Bend Project, Beaumont Accounting Services, promoted to Project Controller-River Bend Project, Beaumont Nuclear Projects.

DAVIDSON, JAMES W., Consumer Services Coordinator, Baton Rouge Division Consumer Services, promoted to Supervisor-Consumer Services.

DAVIS, GEORGE M., Coordinator-Consumer Accounts, Baton Rouge Division Accounting, changed to Coordinator-Consumer Credit.

DEJEAN, JOSEPH E., Consumer Communications Coordinator, Beaumont System Consumer Services, promoted to Director-Customer Relations.

DELAHOUSAYE, JOSEPH J., Director-Budget Services, Beaumont Financial Services, changed to Director-Budgeting & Control, Accounting Services, Controller's Staff.

DUBEA, MICK J., Engineer, Baton Rouge T&D, transferred to Beaumont System Operations, Transmission & Construction.

DUBOSE, GEORGE K., Construction Accountant, promoted to Project Accountant and assigned to Sabine 5 Project, Beaumont.

ESKEW, GARY L., Budget Analyst, assigned to the Administrative Staff of the Vice President-Power Plant Engineering & Design, Beaumont.

FANCHER, MICHAEL L., Engineer, Beaumont T&D, transferred to Beaumont Engineering Design, Transmission & Substation Engineering.

FOSS, CHARLES E., Consumer Service Representative-Sr., Baton Rouge Division Consumer Services, promoted to Consumer Services Coordinator.

GANN, ROBERT H., Repairman First Class, Willow Glen Station, promoted to Mechanical Maintenance Foreman.

GARNER, RICKIE D., Engineer, Beaumont Transmission Planning, transferred to Beaumont Engineering Design, Technical Services.

GIBSON, RICHARD L., Director-Construction Services, assigned to Project Services, Beaumont, as Director-Industrial Engineering.

GLAZAR, JAMES M., Project Engineer, assigned to River Bend Project, Beaumont.

GUILLORY, ROBERT J., Construction Supervisor, assigned to Plant Services, Nelson Station.

GUILLOT, ROBERT J., Equipment Operator, Nelson Station, promoted to Control Operations Foreman.

HACKNEY, CHARLES A., Health Physicist, promoted to Supervisor-Site Radiation Protection and assigned to River Bend Plant Operations, Beaumont.

HANCOCK, JAMES G., Engineering Assistant, promoted to Site Security Representative and assigned to Sabine 5 Project, Sabine Station.

HARRIS, EDWARD M., Cost Analyst, assigned to Project Services, Beaumont.

HAVARD, RALPH W., Test Foreman, assigned to Sabine 5 Project, Sabine Station, as Instrument Inspector.

HERRING, BRUCE D., Scheduling & Cost Analyst, assigned to Sabine 5 Project, Sabine Station, as Construction Specialist.

HICKMAN, BENNIE D., Director-Civil & Structural Engineering, assigned to Design Engineering, Beaumont.

HICKMAN, JAMES R., Engineer, Lake Charles T&D, transferred to Beaumont Engineering Standards & Applications.

JESTER, THOMAS D., Engineer, assigned to Sabine 5 Project, Sabine Station.

KETTERER, MICHAEL A., Engineer, Baton Rouge T&D, changed to Industrial Engineer, Baton Rouge Division Consumer Services.

KILGORE, GARY E., Construction Scheduler,

assigned to Project Services, Beaumont, as Cost Analyst.

KING, LAWRENCE P., Power Plant Superintendent, assigned to River Bend Project, Beaumont.

KLOVER, WILLIAM J., Radiation Control Analyst, promoted to Supervisor-Plant & Radio Chemistry and assigned to River Bend Plant Operations, Beaumont.

LAICHE, KENNETH G., Coordinator-Fuel Services, Beaumont Fuel Services, promoted to Director-Fuel Services.

LANDRY, CHESTER J., Substation Mechanic First Class, Lake Charles T&D, promoted to Utility Foreman, T&D Substation.

LAUGHLIN, JAMES R., Right-of-Way Man, Lake Charles T&D, promoted to Supervisor-Survey & Right-of-Way.

LOPEZ, CHARLES R., Project Engineer, assigned to Design Engineering, Beaumont, as Lead Mechanical Engineer.

LOVE, STEPHEN M., Engineer, assigned to Plant Services, Willow Glen Station.

LUNDHOLM, ROBERT C., Engineer, assigned to Project Services, Beaumont.

MAINES, JAMES D., Utility Foreman, Beaumont T&D, transferred to Vidor T&D Line.

MCCURTAIN, WARD C., Assistant to the Vice President-Public Affairs, named Manager-Community Affairs, Public Affairs Department.

MOSES, MARY J., Coordinator-Industrial Services, Beaumont System Consumer Services, promoted to Director-Business Development.

NARCISSE, LINDA C., Stenographer, Baton Rouge Material Services, promoted to Employment Interviewer, Baton Rouge Industrial Relations.

PARKER, ROGER L., Engineer, assigned to Plant Services, Beaumont.

PETERMAN, RICHARD J., Director-Marketing Services, promoted to Manager-Customer Services, System Consumer Services Department.

PETRY, MICHAEL, Construction Supervisor, assigned to Sabine 5 Project, Sabine Station.

POWELL, SHERMAN R., Utility Foreman, Beaumont T&D, transferred to Vidor T&D Line.

PUCKETT, TERRY M., Supervisor-Environmental Licensing, assigned to Design Engineering, Beaumont.

PURDON, GEOFFREY D., Director-Scheduling & Cost Control, assigned to Project Services, Beaumont, as Director-Cost Engineering.

RAY, GERALD L., Engineer, assigned to Design Engineering, Beaumont.

REYNOLDS, WILLIAM B., Purchasing Agent-Construction, promoted to Site Administrator and assigned to Sabine 5 Project, Sabine Station.

RILEY, DAVID F., Administrative Accountant, Beaumont Accounting Service, promoted to Senior Administrative Accountant, General Accounting.

ROGERS, McKINLEY B., Engineer, assigned to Special Programs, Beaumont.

SANDEFER, MORRIS E., Electrical Inspector, assigned to Sabine 5 Project, Sabine Station.

SCHLICHER, MARY F., Stenographer-Sr., Beaumont Real Estate, promoted to Coordinator-Real Estate Records.

SCHROEDER, KAY G., Draftsman, Beaumont Engineering Design, promoted to Right-of-Way Representative, Beaumont Real Estate.

SERWAN, EDWARD J., Manager-Fuel Services, promoted to General Manager-Fuels and Materials, Administrative Services Department.

SHEPHERD, G. HARRY, Coordinator-Planning & Scheduling, assigned to Project Services, Beaumont, as Scheduling Coordinator.

SHREAD, RICHARD R., Construction Supervisor, assigned to Plant Services, Willow Glen Station.

SIMON, ALICE D., Secretary-Executive, Beaumont Financial Services, transferred to Beaumont Executive, Secretarial Staff.

SINGLETARY, DENNIS E., Coordinator-Consumer Credit, Baton Rouge Division Accounting, promoted to Division Accounting Supervisor, Lake Charles Division.

SMITH, GRADY M., Coordinator-Depreciation & Valuation, Beaumont Tax Services, promoted to Director-Rate Accounting, Beaumont Rates.

SMITH, JAMES L., Supervisor-Site Accounting, River Bend Site Accounting Services, promoted to Director-Accounting Services-River Bend Project, Beaumont Accounting Services.

SMITH, LINDA S., Director-Program Development, Beaumont System Consumer Services, promoted to Director-Energy Audits & Information.

SMITH, MARK A., Engineer, assigned to Plant Services, Nelson Station.

SPIVEY, JOHN W., Engineer, Beaumont T&D, transferred to Beaumont Engineering Design, Transmission & Substation Engineering.

STRAIGHT, HARRY W., Procedure Development Representative, promoted to Coordinator-Project Administration and assigned to Nelson Coal Project, Beaumont.

TAYLOR, SHIRLEY D., Clerk, Baton Rouge Division Accounting, promoted to Training Representative, Baton Rouge Personnel Services.

TRIBBLE, MILDRED F., Director-Home Services, Beaumont System Consumer Services, promoted to Director-Consumer & Institutional Programs.

TROUARD, JACK P., Line Foreman, Sulphur T&D, promoted to Assistant General Line Foreman, Lake Charles T&D.

VAN DER WERF, EDWARD J., Scheduling Analyst, assigned to Sabine 5 Project, Sabine Station, as Construction Specialist.

WADE, DAVID B., Engineer, Conroe T&D, transferred to Beaumont Engineering Standards & Applications.

WALKER, PERRY J., General Construction Supervisor, assigned to Plant Services, Beaumont,

as Supervisor-Construction Administration.

WALTERS, DANIEL L., Administrative Accountant, Lake Charles Division Accounting, promoted to Senior Administrative Accountant, Beaumont Division Accounting Services.

WHEELER, EDWIN H., Sr. Engineering Assistant, Beaumont Transmission Planning, promoted to Section Head, Beaumont Engineering Design, Transmission & Substation.

WILLIAMS, JOHN T., General Line Foreman, Beaumont T&D, promoted to Chief Construction Inspector, Beaumont System Operations.

WILLIAMS, MALCOLM M., Director-Industrial and Area Development, promoted to Manager-Business Development, System Consumer Services Department.

WIMBERLEY, JOE E., Superintendent-Construction, assigned to River Bend Project, River Bend Station, as Superintendent-Site Construction.

YENNIE, MICHAEL J., Chief Accountant-Nelson Coal Project, Beaumont Accounting Services, changed to Director-Accounting Services-Nelson Coal Project.



A helping hand from Reddy's conservation cousin

Mr. Norman Lee, President
Gulf States Utilities Co.

Dear Mr. Lee:

I have a cousin employed by your firm by the name of Reddy Kilowatt, who has in my opinion done a very professional job in the past. However, if he is not restrained in some manner or other, he likes to "light up the town".

My particular reference at this time is a country light located 100' west of the west China city limits and on the south side of Highway 90. This light, to my knowledge, has burned continuously day and night for some four years, and being energy conscious as I am, I felt that I should bring this to your attention finally.

Your conservation friend,

Kut-Out Kilowatt

Kut-Out Kilowatt

Mr. Norman Lee, President
Gulf States Utilities Co.

Dear Mr. Lee:

I notice this morning that the China light problem was corrected with the greatest dispatch.

It is a pleasure to see the kind of action you have taken on such a small item as the China light, and by a person who already has a tremendous workload, I am sure.

The public can appreciate any public utility that is guaranteed a certain margin of profit who has in its employ people that can handle the small problems as expediently as the large ones.

Oh — by the way — I have another cousin who may be a helpful source of additional income for some of your customers. His name is "Kut-Off Kilowatt".

This will be the last time you will hear from me unless I catch old Reddy Kilowatt lighting up the town again. Thank you for your cooperation in this very little matter.

Your conservation friend,

Kut-Out Kilowatt

Kut-Out Kilowatt

Service Awards



Joseph C. Porter
Division Production
Beaumont
40 Years



Velma G. Anderson
Division Accounting Dept.
Lake Charles
30 Years



Warren W. Anderson
Power Plant Construction
Port Arthur
30 Years



L. J. Biessenberger
Electric T&D Dept.
Lake Charles
30 Years



Joseph E. DeJean
Consumer Services
Beaumont
30 Years



Ervin D. Desormeaux
Electric T&D Dept.
Lafayette
30 Years



Roy Taft Fox
Division Accounting
Beaumont
30 Years



Joseph L. Gallet
Electric T&D Dept.
Lafayette
30 Years



J. S. Gray
Division Production
Baton Rouge—Willow Glen
30 Years



Margie B. Gray
Division Accounting Dept.
Beaumont
30 Years



Edward C. Kopp
Division Production
Baton Rouge
30 Years



Robert E. Lanier
Material Services Dept.
Beaumont
30 Years



Elizabeth O. McCord
Accounting Services Dept.
Beaumont
30 Years



Kathryn J. Messina
Electric T&D Dept.
Port Arthur
30 Years



Talmadge R. Myers
Electric T&D Dept.
Conroe
30 Years



Lourey J. St. Pierre
Division Production
Baton Rouge—Willow Glen
30 Years



Mary F. Schlicher
System Real Estate
Beaumont
30 Years



Gurdon D. Camus
Gas Department
Baton Rouge
20 Years



Sam H. Chamberlain
Division Production
Lake Charles
20 Years



Verlie P. Gibson
Division Accounting Dept.
Baton Rouge
20 Years



Joseph C. Hoell
Division Production
Beaumont
20 Years



Dale E. Karaff
Division Production
Beaumont
20 Years



Kenneth C. McKnight
Electric T&D Dept.
Baton Rouge
20 Years



Alex N. Moses
System Engineering Design
Beaumont
20 Years



Leon M. Scott
Gas Department
Baton Rouge
20 Years



Sammie E. Stephenson
Division Accounting Dept.
Baton Rouge
20 Years



James P. Towers
Executive Dept.
Baton Rouge
20 Years



Lanita J. Bailey
Division Accounting Dept.
Kountze
10 Years



Ray A. Brent
Electric T&D Dept.
Baton Rouge
10 Years



William A. Cropper
Financial Services Dept.
Beaumont
10 Years



Raymond E. Everett
Division Accounting
Baton Rouge
10 Years



Robert G. Guye
Internal Audit Dept.
Beaumont
10 Years



C. E. Helveston, Jr.
Electric T&D Dept.
Beaumont
10 Years



Samuel S. Johnson
Electric T&D Dept.
Beaumont
10 Years



Owens M. McPayne
Division Production
Lake Charles
10 Years



Melanie D. Russell
Gas Department
Baton Rouge
10 Years



Bonnie C. Schwenneker
Electric T&D Dept.
Lake Charles
10 Years



Philemon G. Smith
Division Production
Baton Rouge
10 Years



Willie C. Thomas
Electric T&D Dept.
Port Arthur
10 Years



George E. Weathers
Electric T&D Dept.
Baton Rouge
10 Years

New business manager appointed for IBEW 2286

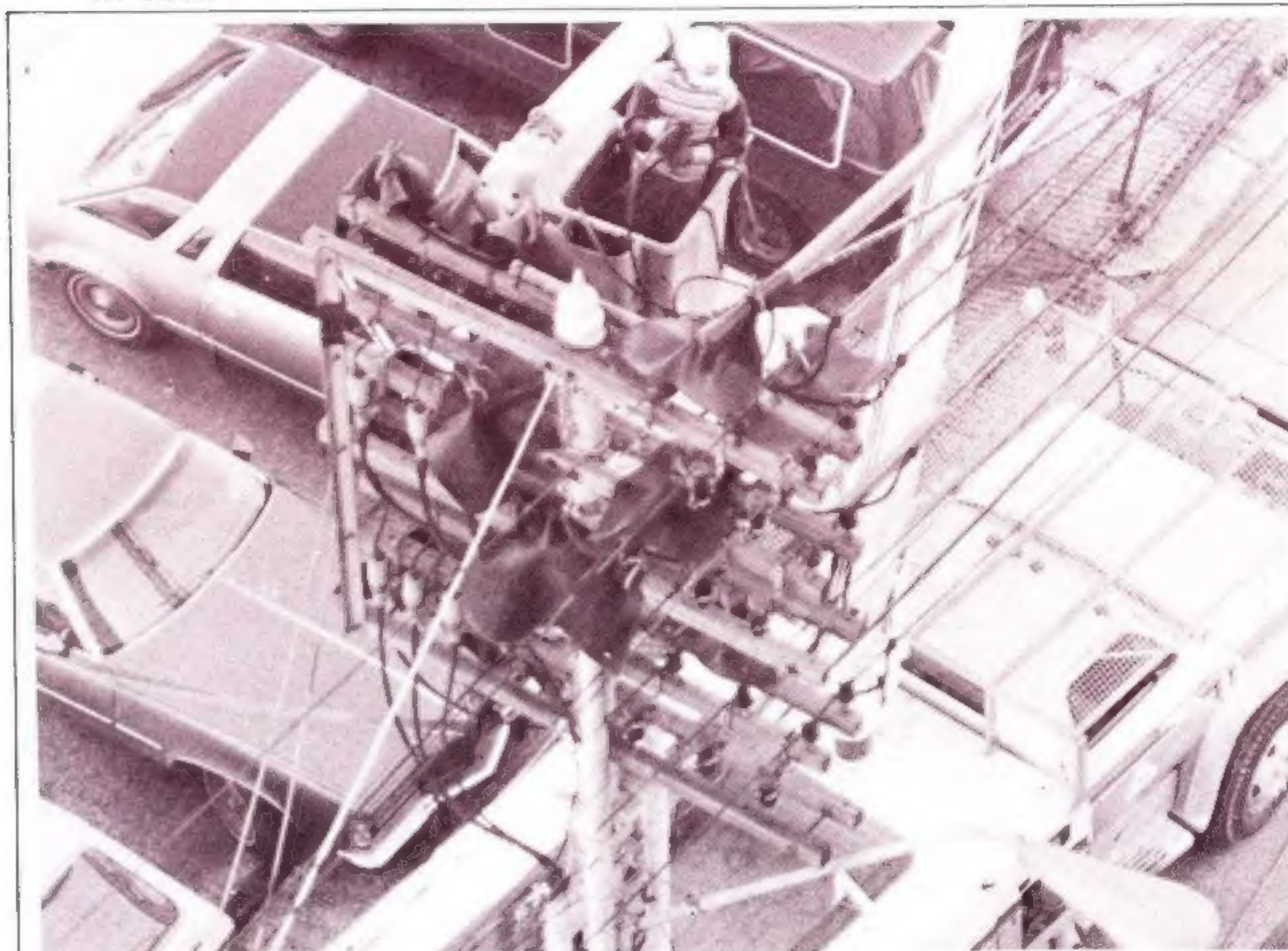
The executive board of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local #2286, which represents GSU's bargaining unit employees in Louisiana and Texas, has appointed George Crawford to fill the unexpired term of business manager Bill Tholborn.

Tholborn has resigned effective June 24, 1979.

Crawford, who currently serves as president of IBEW Local #2286, will be granted leave of absence by the company from his job as a senior engineering assistant in Orange for the duration of his term as business manager. The post will be filled by a vote of the union membership at the expiration of the term in June, 1980.

As business manager, Crawford will be the chief representative of the membership of the union and will also serve as financial secretary.

It is expected that the union's executive board will appoint a new president to replace Crawford in the near future. Tholborn, who has been on leave of absence since assuming the business manager's office, will return to GSU's employment after his resignation becomes effective.



A GSU lineman, at work next to the main office building in Beaumont recently, provided the setting for this "bird's eye view".

THRIFT PLAN

Investments made by the trustee during February, 1979 covering employee deductions and Company contributions through January, 1979 were as follows:

Purchase of Common Stock

Number of Shares — 9,678
Total Cost — \$120,975.00
Average Cost Per Share — \$12.50

The Trustee also made the following deposits:

First Security Bank of Beaumont, \$107,892.95 in Savings.

The Equitable Life Assurance Society \$19,198.22 Guaranteed Fixed Income Fund.

Help! We'd like to know just what you think of the "new" Plain Talks and we need your help. Please complete this form and send, via company mail, to Plain Talks, Beaumont.

I read

☐ all of Plain Talks; ☐ most of it; ☐ about half; ☐ only glanced at it.

Best liked feature _____

I would like to see more on _____

Inside GSU



When the employees at the Government Street Service Center in Baton Rouge learned that Cindi Talley, a departmental clerk in the Electric Service Department, was transferring back to the Accounting Department at the division office on North Boulevard, they decided they would make darn sure

they would not be forgotten. So they bid farewell to Cindi in a rather unusual way — by singing telegram, complete with monkey. Cindi was very surprised by the farewell and the singing telegram provided everyone present with a good laugh. (from Linda A. Nelson)



Sabine Station has completed its third consecutive successful blood drive for the Southeast Texas Blood Bank. Presenting co-chairmen Rodney Townsend and L. E. Stough and donor Cynthia

Shackelford with the three-year award is Ray St. Peter, executive director of the blood bank. (from Pam Nunez)



John Spivey, T&D engineer at the Beaumont Service Center, was transferred to Beaumont Engineering and Design last month and co-workers gathered for a party in his honor. John, a music buff, was presented with an Olivia Newton John album. He is flanked by Bill Luther (left) and Paul Lane. (from Carolyn Motl)



Larry Larriviere, Relay Department engineer, was honored by his co-workers last month with a farewell party, upon his promotion to coordinator-load management. After 19 years in the Relay Department, Larry had made many friends in engineering and will be greatly missed.



Maggie Perkins, daughter of Edgar Perkins, Beaumont Customer Accounting, became the bride of Jerome Bassett on January 27 at the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Beaumont. Maggie, a graduate of Lamar University, is employed by Exxon. Her husband, a student at Texas Southern University, is also employed by Exxon. The couple lives in Houston.



Ed Welch, a communications serviceman 1st class in the Lake Charles Relay and Communications Department, was the subject of some good natured kidding at a farewell party held last month upon his transfer to Beaumont and promotion to coordinator-telecommunications in the Administrative Services Department. Since Ed, who is an avid follower of the New Orleans Saints football team, was taking up residence in Texas, friends thought it appropriate to have a cake on hand proclaiming him "The Newest Dallas Cowboy Fan". He also received a pair of rose colored glasses, some radio parts (to remind him where he spent his first 11 years with the company) and a Dallas Cowboys jogging shirt. Wayne Fails, communications foreman, (on left) is shown above presenting Ed with a gift certificate. (from Dorothy Bennett)



David Eckley, a senior Geology student at Lamar University and a native of Humble, Tex., was recently selected as GSU's representative to attend the Edison Centennial Symposium April 1-4 in San Francisco. Shown above (at left) discussing the program with GSU manager of communications Jim Turner, Eckley maintains a 3.5 grade point average at Lamar where he is a four year letterman in tennis.

\$15,000 given to United Appeals

Lake Charles contribute record amount

The company's Lake Charles division employees obtained outstanding results in the 1978 Calcasieu United Appeals fund-raising campaign, contributing a record \$14,905 under the leadership of drive chairman Elbert Heard, Lake Charles safety representative.

Heard stated that the classified employees, captained by Jean Hebert, mechanic's helper at Nelson Station, and Charles Landrum, lineman 1st class, increased their giving by 66 percent with a 124 percent jump in the number of Fair Share givers.

"At Nelson Station alone, said Heard, "72 percent of the givers were Fair Share, which was an astronomical leap from previous years." Nelson Station employees increased their total giving by 157 percent with a 72 percent participation and an average gift per contributor of \$59. Hebert, who chaired the drive at Nelson, received a Fair Share plaque (presented to first-year Fair Share groups) for the employees.

Overall participation by Gulf States employees rose to 92 percent from the 83 percent tallied for 1977. Total giving increased by 37 percent.

Bill Richard, Lake Charles division vice president, expressed his appreciation to all employees at GSU who contributed to United Appeals for their unselfish generosity in helping the citizens of their community who are in need. Richard is president of Calcasieu United Appeals.

General campaign manager Al Johnson thanked Gulf States for the support shown by a generous leadership company contribution. "It is this kind of support that really makes you feel that it does work ... for all of us," he said.



From left: Kyle Todd, Elbert Heard, Charles Landrum and Gene Hebert.

An open letter to the President

Dear Mr. President:

In the first six decades of this century, America's electricity users paid scant attention to the electric utility industry. Electric companies quietly produced adequate electric power, reliably and dependably, at costs so low that hardly a word of protest was ever heard about an electric bill.

Into the Sixties, electricity prices actually went downward, and rate reductions were the rule rather than the exception.

The decade of the Seventies has changed all that. The Arab oil embargo of late 1973 started a series of increases in fuel prices—oil and natural gas, with coal following. In 1970, oil was selling at \$2.45 a barrel; currently, some oil is being offered at more than \$21 a barrel. Since a major portion of our operating costs is for the fuel we must burn to make electricity, electric bills have soared dramatically in the past few years.

The impact of inflation on our operations—higher wages, higher construction costs, higher interest rates, higher prices for trucks and equipment, materials and supplies—also has added to those electric bills.

The electric companies are in many cases struggling to keep afloat. They are seeking hard-to-get rate relief from utility commissions that are under considerable pressure from consumer groups. Utilities have to borrow money at unbelievable rates in order to build the generating and transmission facilities needed to keep pace with growth. And they find themselves paying unheard of prices for fuel to burn in their boilers.

The presidential "energy summit" at Camp David has ended. We are hopeful that some immediate and meaningful action will come from it.

This is an especially critical time for accelerating the development of our nation's domestic energy resources. Therefore, we feel it is our duty to our nation and to our customers to bring to your attention the very real, severe and unaddressed problems that face the electric utility industry. Those problems are working to deny Americans the reliable and adequate electric power that they have enjoyed for the past hundred years.

To help solve these problems, we urge the following much-needed governmental actions to assure Americans that their lights will go on and that their factories will operate when they flip the switches:

- Make available immediately the vast coal resources of this nation so that we can use coal as a boiler fuel and thus conserve petroleum supplies.

This can be done without damage to the environment if reasonable legislation is passed and sensible regulation is imposed. We agree with Secretary Schlesinger that coal use should be enhanced now by use of limited waivers available in the Clean Air Act regulations.

- Let the development of nuclear power continue as it has for nearly two decades until, only within recent years, it has been slowed to a near standstill. Nuclear licensing and siting legislation must be passed without delay; the President should urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to expedite its actions in this matter, and the Congress should expeditiously enact effective legislation to the same end.

- Make realistic, conclusive and timely plans for the permanent storage of radioactive waste material and the interim storage of spent fuel, pending a decision on reprocessing.

- Develop aggressively the breeder reactor, including the Clinch River Project.

- Establish unequivocally a national pro-nuclear policy so that the electric utility industry can build light-water nuclear power plants in the five to six years it now takes in some countries instead of the 12 to 14 years it presently takes in the U.S.

- Phase out regulation of oil prices, increase domestic development of oil and encourage construction of additional refinery capacity.

- Amend government regulations now in effect to permit greater power plant use of natural gas, taking advantage of a temporary abundance of natural gas in some areas of the nation and helping to relieve our dependence on foreign oil.

- Dramatically improve the current regulatory system, which appears to be based on delay after delay. Governmental approval procedures must be consolidated and simplified, and time restraints placed upon them, while still permitting decision-making processes that will in no way bar the expression of diverse views. A major problem today is not a lack of domestic resources, but a lack of governmental action to permit timely development of those resources.

The electric utility industry stands ready to work cooperatively with you to find solutions to the nation's critical electric energy problems. These problems must be resolved. The future of our American way of life depends on it.

Respectfully yours,
William McCollam, Jr.
President

Edison Electric Institute
The association of electric companies